









People constantly enter and exit schools and daycare centers—therefore, they become likely places for bed bugs to be transported. It is important to have protocols established for dealing with bed bugs before they appear. Schools are not as likely as apartment buildings, homes, and hotels to develop breeding populations of bed bugs. But day care centers can potentially develop serious problems with bed bugs, because the pests feed exclusively on the blood of persons at sleep or at rest—so rooms where children nap can provide the opportunity for bed bugs to become a problem. Here are some guidelines for preventing bed bugs and for handling them if and when they become a problem:

GUIDELINES

-  Collect any specimens thought to be bed bugs. Place the specimen in a small container of rubbing alcohol. Seek a qualified individual, such as an entomologist or pest management professional to identify the specimen. **REMEMBER:** finding a bed bug on a child or their belongings does not necessarily mean that their household, day care, or school is infested.
-  Discretely remove the child from the classroom and inspect the clothing and belongings, as well as any bins or lockers used to store belongings. Clothing and other items can be dried in a hot dryer for at least 20 minutes to kill all stages of bed bugs.
-  After inspection, keep potentially infested belongings in a tightly sealed container such as a garbage bag or bin with tightly fitting lid. Keep them there until the child leaves for home.
-  Provide information for bed bug prevention and control home with the child so that the parents can conduct a check for infestation. Emphasize the importance of having a pest control professional involved to confirm presence of bed bugs and perform treatment if needed.
-  Provide information to other families as a precaution, since their children may have come in contact with the bed bugs.
-  If bed bugs are confirmed, or it is reasonable to believe that they could be present in a school or day care, a pest management professional should be contacted to who has experience with bed bugs to inspect all rooms and provide treatment if they are confirmed.
-  **NOTE:** Check laws regarding application of pesticides—in most cases this is not permitted when children are present. Pest management applicators will be knowledgeable about these regulations.
-  Households determined to have bed bugs must also seek pest management professional treatment to prevent transporting bed bugs to day care, school, or other places. Clothing to be worn when leaving the home should be washed, then dried in a hot dryer for 20 minutes. Extra clothing must be placed in a tightly sealed container such as a garbage bag until just before taking the child to school or day care. This also applies to other personal items such as coats or back packs.

